

SENATE BILL 1873

By Henry

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 68-120-113, relative to fire prevention.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 68-120-113, is amended by adding the following language as a new subdivision (3):

(3) In addition to the certification provided for in subsection (a)(1) and (2), all metropolitan governments created pursuant § 7-1-101 et seq. are authorized to establish a fire company in-service fire inspection program. The purpose of the program is to allow firefighters as defined in § 4-24-201 to aid the metropolitan government's assistant to the commissioner of commerce and insurance, provided for in § 68-102-108, by permitting the firefighters to enforce the provisions of this chapter without the certification required in subsections (a)(1) and (2).

(A) As used in this subdivision, "fire company in-service fire inspection program" means a program designed to utilize and train firefighters to perform fire prevention inspections limited to certain occupancies.

(B) All firefighters employed by a metropolitan government are eligible to qualify under the in-service fire inspection program. In order to qualify, the firefighter must complete eight (8) hours of continuing education annually pertaining to enforcement of any applicable fire code adopted by the metropolitan government. The fire company in-service fire inspection program is subject to initial approval by the state fire marshal, and is to be approved annually thereafter. Subsequent supervision is the responsibility of the metropolitan government's assistant to the commissioner of commerce and insurance, and includes, but is not limited to, the issuance of standard operating procedures,

inspection checklists, and violation citations, all of which are to be updated annually.

(C) Firefighters qualified under subdivision (a)(3)(B) shall be allowed to inspect the following existing occupancies as they are defined in the National Fire Protection Association Fire Prevention Code:

(i) Mercantile occupancies with three thousand (3,000) square feet or less;

(ii) Assembly occupancies with an occupant load of three hundred (300) or less;

(iii) Business occupancies with the exception of high rise structures; and

(iv) Industrial occupancies except for high hazard industrial occupancies.

(D) All inspections performed pursuant to this subdivision (3) shall be performed under the supervision of the metropolitan government's assistant to the commissioner of commerce and insurance.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming law, the public welfare requiring it.